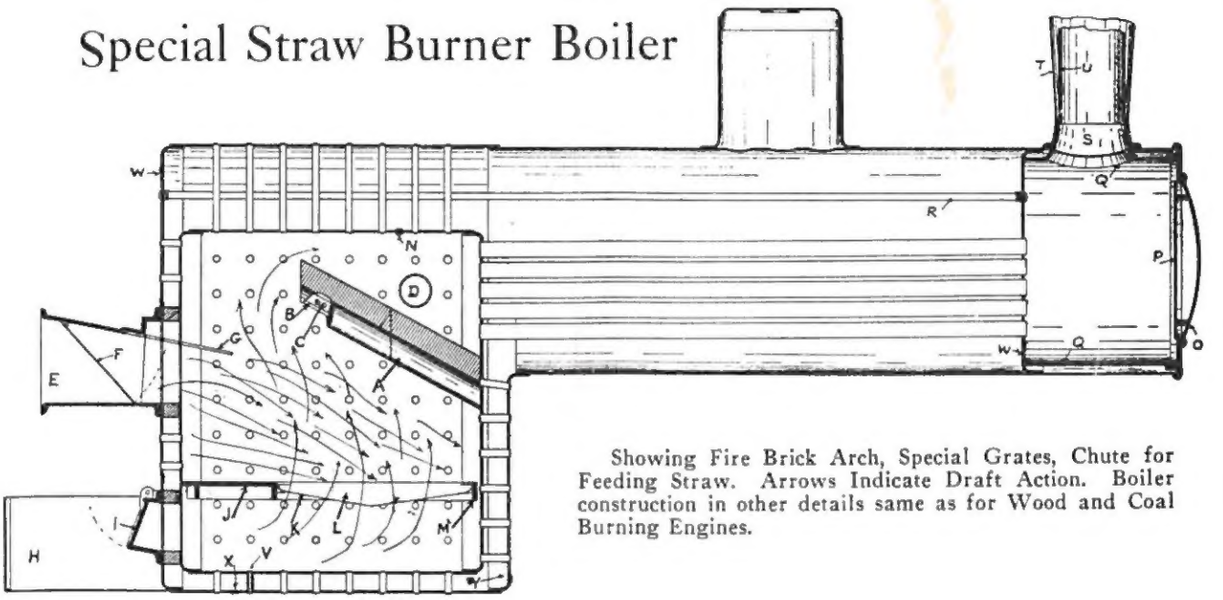
1913

Special Straw Burner Boiler



Showing Fire Brick Arch, Special Grates, Chute for Feeding Straw. Arrows Indicate Draft Action. Boiler construction in other details same as for Wood and Coal Burning Engines.

THE Reeves Straw-Burning Engine in general appearance and advantages is the same as the Simple Double Cylinder and the Cross Compound. The only difference is the arrangement of the boiler firebox for the use of straw for fuel. The Patent Firebrick Arch is made in section with a socket joint in the center to permit expansion and contraction without injury to the firebox walls or the arch itself. This construction permits of the entire arch being removed for repairing the flues or for any other work, and is easily and quickly replaced. The supporting arms for the arch are thoroughly protected from the heat and will therefore never burn out. They also can be removed, after the arch has been taken out, by lifting them off the support pins.

Half the grate is of the ordinary loose-grate construction. When burning straw only two or three are left in, the others being removed by a pair of specially made long tongs. The rear part of the grate is made solid, with a loose sliding section on top to open or close the grated portion as the condition of the straw and the amount of power wanted may require. This is a very important point in a straw burning firebox as the quantity of air just at the fire must be properly regulated to obtain the best results.

When it is desired to burn wood or coal, it is only necessary to drop in a few more grates, or if a permanent change is to be made to our rocking grates, it can be made easily. All of these valuable features are fully protected by patents.

The REEVES Straw-burning Engines have been successfully used for years in the Northwest and have fully demonstrated their capacity to develop even more than their rated horse power.

Oil as Fuel

The Latest Improved Oil Burner will be furnished for REEVES Engines, when specially ordered and at extra price. In localities where this fuel is produced and therefore plentiful, it is the cleanest, cheapest and most desirable to use. Our equipment consists of a fire-brick lining and an arch similar to that used in the REEVES Straw Burner, and against which the oil is sprayed under steam pressure. The arch distributes the heat evenly, the lining protects the firebox walls, and, with the arch holds the temperature stationary. The oil supply tank is placed on the top of boiler. The feed is by gravitation controlled by proper check valves.

MEANDERINGS

Old machines hark back to once-golden age

By Dennis Smith 10-9-92

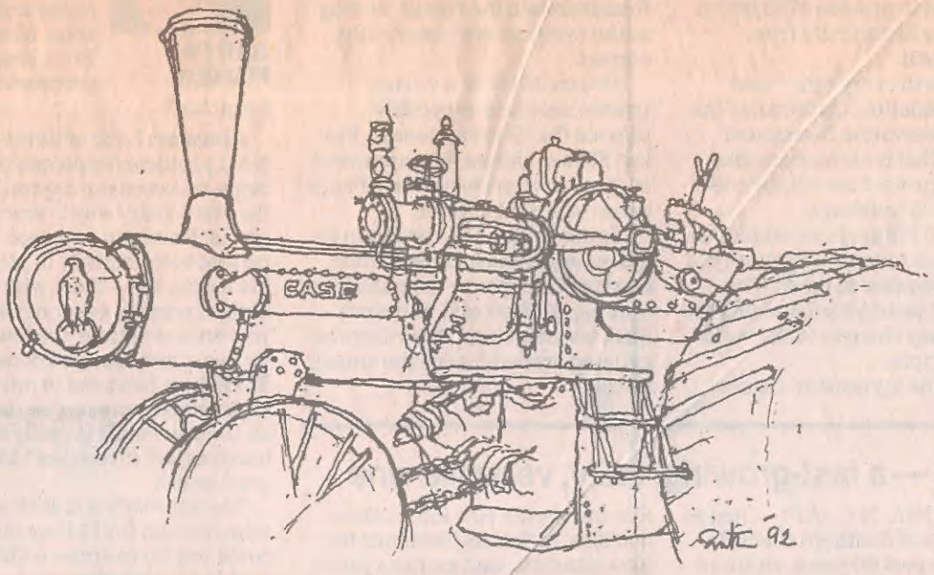
A couple of weeks ago I noticed a blurb in the paper about the annual meeting of the Utah Antique Machinery Association to be held that weekend in West Jordan.

So early one morning I sauntered out to take a look and was richly rewarded for the effort. They had set up shop a mile or so north of the Jordan River Temple, in a field behind a farm, adjacent to high power lines and the Jordan River.

From the moment I arrived, I was glad that I had taken the time. Scattered through the field were hundreds of exhibitors, ordinary folks who nurture a love affair with the machine.

From the parking area in an adjacent field I could hear the sounds of machines putting and humming in the morning air. Their variety was astounding, from delicate little gasoline engines for early power mowers from the 1920s to huge one-piston engines from the 1800s that were used for everything from sawing wood to baling hay.

There were several interesting old gasoline engine washing machines. They had long exhaust hoses made of flexible tubing to get the exhaust fumes outside the house. There was a machine that smashed beer cans, all kinds of farm machinery, and in a second field to the south, at least a hundred tractors of every brand and vintage, and a huge orange steam shovel with steel cables to move its long arms and bucket.



DENNIS SMITH

There were also two huge steam engines sitting back to back on the west end of the field. One was shut down, with its front open so you could see the complex rows of tubing. Its interior walls were caked with black soot from the smoke of the firebox.

The other engine was restlessly simmering. A thin band of smoke curled up from its smokestack, and tiny pinpoints of white steam sizzled from its arteries.

A man with a baseball cap and a handlebar mustache was climbing around the top of the beast. He had a large wrench, which he used to tap and adjust here and there, fine tuning whatever needed attention. In his every movement you could tell that he was as proud as a man who might own a set of fine Clydesdale horses.

I talked with him for a few minutes while he stoked the firebox with light shovels full of coke and stirred it around for good measure.

I neglected to get his name, but he was from Santaquin on the south side of Utah County. The steam engine was no ordinary acquisition. It had belonged to his grandfather — a bit of heritage handed down, and he was determined to keep it alive.

I looked over at the open door on the front of the other engine, with its Case logo of an eagle perched on top of the world, and I thought how appropriate a symbol it was of that forgotten age, when the prowess of American industry fanned out over America's heartland — when huge steam engines tilled, planted and harvested the wheat that helped make the United States a major power in the developing world.

Suddenly, my attention was distracted by the high-toned blast of a steam whistle at my back. The man from Santaquin had taken position at the wheel at the back of his grandfather's engine and was performing a ritual dance of pulling the levers and handles that would put it into action.

With a slow determination, its huge wheels began to move, their iron cleats biting into the earth. The single arm of the piston surged forward, emitting a blast of steam, then moved back again, faster and faster as the engine rolled down a subtle incline onto the field where it passed all the smaller tractors lined up in a long row facing it. The big engine seemed almost like a general reviewing his troops.

Again the whistle blew as the gargantuan rounded the other end of the field.

Behind the power lines and the river, I saw the outline of the city, with Mount Olympus in the distance and a small portion of the interstate with its busy traffic. I also caught a glimpse of downtown with its fledgling skyscrapers. The sun was reflecting off the top of the new "coppertop" building on 200 South.

I thought of all the computers between here and there, all the strands of fiber optics and microwave ovens, and the communications towers above Emigration Canyon throwing thousands of voices past Park City toward the panels of passing satellites and destinations around the world. I was suddenly aware of how far we have come, of how quickly the industrial age is fading, replaced by an age of computers and communication, with its mind-boggling implications already spreading out before our very eyes.

Dennis Smith is an artist and writer living in Highland, Utah County.

DON GRAYSTON, DESERET NEWS

Silent steamer

A 1920 Oil Pull Tractor is polished and ready for exhibit at the Utah Antique Machinery Association's eighth annual show at 8000 S. 1300 West. The show is open from 10 a.m. to dusk on Saturday and Sunday. General admission is $4 for both days. The Utah Antique Machinery Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the collection, restoration and display of antique machinery of all kinds. Membership is open to all with an interest in antique machinery. Call 521-7300 for more information.

9-26-92 Des News

Because of its power and its ability to move around the field, this tractor serves many different purposes for farmers.